Diversity Through Inclusion

La Carta

Happy New Year

The new year is finally upon us (at last). This is the time that each of us will be making a New Year's Resolution to better ourselves, give up bad habits, etc. As a part of making ourselves better people, we should remember a man who had literally given his life to making America, and probably the world, a better place to live: the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King's strongest philosophy was passive resistance. He stated that "Pacifism was a courageous confrontation of evil by the power of love, in the faith that it is better to be a recipient of violence than an inflictor of it." He meant that by appealing to the good in the oppressor, loving resistance could bring about a transformation in the human heart and take man a step closer toward universal justice.

His greatest attempt at freedom and equality for Blacks and other minorities as well, was the March on Washington and his glorious speech. One hundred years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by Abraham Lincoln, King made the speech that stirred the souls of many people, Black, White, Jewish, Oriental. He spoke of his dream, his dream of his faith that "we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood...to work together, pray together, struggle together...to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day."

Dr. King died never having realized his dream. In 1968, King was in Memphis, Tennessee to help the Black sanitation workers. While on the balcony of his motel room, King was shot in the neck by a high powered rifle. He was pronounced dead at 7:05 P.M., APRIL 14, 1968.

On January 17, Americans will be celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. day, a national holiday for most states. On that day, and everyday, we should try to remember the life of Dr. King, all that he fought for, and use his teachings as a model for everything that we have yet to fight for, for his words are words to live by.

NEWS BRIEFS

• La Guía has an "800" number for use by anyone on the mailing list who would otherwise have to call long distance to reach the La Guía Hotline. Participants who don't have to call long distance are urged to call 473-6771. Currently, the 800 number will not be printed in general publications nor will be given out to other organizations. The number is intended for use by La Guía participants within the continental United States. Yes! La Guía has participants in Texas, Nevada, California, and New Mexico. Everyone on the mailing list will receive the number through a separate mailing in the near future. This will facilitate more input to its hotline.

• La Guía's meeting schedule has been revised. Representatives on the steering committee will be required to meet once a month while membership meetings will be held on a quarterly schedule. Everyone on the mailing list is encouraged to attend both membership and steering committee meetings. The new schedule will start in March of '94 the month La Guía was started in '93.

• La Guía meetings: Saturday, January 22nd, 2:00 p.m. at Robert's house (2409 Acero, Pueblo). This is the first meeting where all divisions and committees will meet together. Everyone on the mailing list is welcome.

• The newsletter has been named. The new name is "La Carta." So whenever we refer to La Carta, everyone will know what we mean. Last month, we received 27 calls complimenting La Carta and 12 calls complimenting certain articles.

• The La Guía Catalog will be out sometime this winter. It will enable everyone to order everything from T-Shirts, jewelry, crafts, and other miscellaneous items by local artisans. We'll also be including a section on businesses and services which are available from some La Guía members. for more information, call La Guía today.

• We have literature available upon request on AIDS and P-FLAG thanks to S-CAP and Bonnie Frum from P-FLAG. La Guía can offer anyone their books, pamphlets, and other literary materials in both English and Spanish.

• La Guía promotes inclusion by example. Our ability in attracting non-Hispanic people of color and white non-Hispanic gays and Lesbians has urged us to consider the creation of an "other people of color" division within La Guía. We envision being a group that practices what it preaches! Please call us if you have any ideas. Many non-Latino folks have turned to us because they either feel more comfortable with us or have no other outlet within the community.

• Consumers Beware!! Chick-fil-A and Focus on the Family have joined up to distribute audio tapes in the Kids' Meals to teach morals. The Atlanta-based restaurant chain has worked with Focus on the Family for five years on meal promos. Sounds like an eating establishment not worthy of a gay dollar!

COLOR

Webster defines color as "the aspect of things that is caused by differing qualities of the light reflected or emitted by them." Color, it is something we all have, something emitted from each one of us. We give off our own unique color. A woman might give off the color of a mother. A man the color of his wife. A

person of homosexual intent emits and reflects the society that he or she has constructed around him or herself.

As a society, the homosexual community has adopted the spectrum and colors of the rainbow. Each one of us falls into that arc of prismatic colors. Some of us are blue, others yellow, still others red. Each color drawing strength and beauty from each other till together, they, we, form a point of vision of perception to inspire, encourage, delight, and instruct ourselves and mankind as a whole.

La Guía, a people of color, of diversity through inclusion, of support and education, brings that arc of commitment within our reach. Express the color of your life. Together, through our differing qualities as a whole, our shared point of vision will encompass mankind.

La Guía invites everyone in Colorado Springs, Pueblo, San Luis Valley, and the rest of Southern Colorado to join in our People of Color campaign to bring unity, support, and education to all people regardless of race, creed, or sexual orientation. Contact La Guía to voice your concerns and points of view.

– Robert

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- La Guía is in the process of filing for its 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status.
- Submissions to Obras Periscopicos (Periscopic Works) are still being accepted.
- Organization of the People of Color Arts and Crafts Show is still being planned.
- Plans for the La Guía booth are still in the works.
- Programs on English Only laws, coalition building, cultural advocacy, diversity through inclusion, and being Hispano/Latino Lesbians, Bisexuals, and Gays.

DECEMBER FIESTA

Semillas de la Tierra, a folklórico group, and musical group called El Conjunto Nuevo Aztlán presented December Fiesta at Richardson Hall Auditorium on the Adams State College campus in Alamosa on December 10-11.

The impressive, spirited dance renditions by Semillas de la Tierra were more than entertaining: they were educational and captivating. Explanations on stage and in the programs revealed many of the origins and purposes to the dance and music.

The first set of selections were from the rich Norteño culture of northern Mexico and the American Southwest. Both the costumes and influence of the vaquero (cowboy) are traditions which the later "American Cowboy" borrowed most of its influences from.

The second set of dances involved selections from the state of Sonora and the state of Sinaloa, where the pre-Colombian traditions of the Mayans and Taquis natives influenced the area. The influence of the Españoles was most unmistakable in the Sinaloa folklórico dance style citing the almost flamenco like footwork and beautiful skirt movement.

Aside from the great show put on by Semillas de la Tierra, El Conjunto Nuevo Aztlán interjected spirited and beautiful renditions of music which seemed to make everyone tap to the rhythm of the selections.

For those of you who missed the program, you missed a noche sorprendiente.

– Gaimé

¡BIENVENIDOS, SAN LUIS VALLEY!

La Guía has expanded (again)! Our new friends come from the San Luis Valley and are being incorporated into La Guía as a new division. According to San Luis Valley representative Mitch, interest in the Valley is strong and we should start having news in La Carta as soon as February.

So if you're from the Valley, encourage your friends to sign up! We're more than excited...we're ecstatic! A special mailing describing membership, orientation, and functions, as well as our method of operation will be forth coming in January so it'll be easier to explain what and how we do things.

– Gaimé

¡PUEBLO, ADELANTE!

Thanks to our Pueblo representative, Robert, the Pueblo division will lead La Guía with our first major function/fund-raiser. As you know from our previous mailing, the Mega-Mixer was re-scheduled to Saturday, February 19th in Pueblo. We are still finalizing the details, but all indications point to a unique and fun event. Flyers, invitations, and advertisements will start going out at the end of January.

– Gaimé

RESOLUTIONS

Welcome to a nuevo año, just like any other new year. Resolutions will be made to go with the new beginning this time of year inspires in many of us. But while you're thinking of the effects that victory over Amendment 2 has brought upon us, there are other issues that have been on the back burner. Another conservative crusade from Cali is calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to prohibit children of foreign-born parents to be U.S. citizens. Guess who is going to be affected most? I'll give you a hint and it has noting to do with the small armies along the U.S.-Mexico Border.

I realize a lot of La Guía is in the closet but there are other issues we face such as the new amendment, which brings on a deja vu of English only. How many of us sat around while English only scapegoated la gente for the problems in the U.S. It is time to identify the hypocrisy in ourselves fighting for our rights as gays, while letting our cultural values and background get stomped on. The first step is to keep informed, which I hope this new part of the newsletter will do.

– Maurcedes

Our Motto:

"Diversity Through Inclusion

Our Mission:

La Guía is a grassroots organization that encourages the inclusion of Hispano/Latino Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and their friends by providing a diverse forum that is both autonomous and interactive within the greater Gay and Lesbian community.

Our Vision:

We envision a Gay and Lesbian community that is educated and respectful of the racial, ethnic and cultured diversity within the Hispano/Latino community, and who are aware of the benefits of promoting multiculturalism.

Our Description:

We represent Hispanic/Latino Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and their friends from a variety of backgrounds throughout Southern Colorado who are dedicated to the unification and education of the Gay and Lesbian community at-large and who believe in the mission statement of La Guía.

La Guía
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The Colors of the Stars

My father's a banker
and he always has change in his pockets;
quarters for the ice cream man
or bubble gum machines.
Old pennies for my pig.

"Money talks, bullshit walks"
-- he says that a lot.
He "works hard all day,"
and he "don't respect" Miss Johnson.
"Lib'ral," he calls her,
"crazy bitch," when he's drunk.

She's got a handful of stars
and she gives them to us like candy,
sometimes as a reward,
sometimes for no reason.

I like the green ones.

I rub my forehead clean,
carefully press my bangs aside
and try to beat the sweat of the bus home.

But father's only happy with gold.

"How much is the blue sky?"
asks Miss Johnson.
"How much for the sun?"

Father never seems to know.

I keep all my stars,
mostly green ones,
in an old wallet my father forgot he gave me.

Miss Johnson knows
I like the green ones.

J.L.N.

color

heritage

diversity

inclusion

la guia

p. o. box 1335

colorado springs